

## Document Contradicts Testimony

# CIA Viewed Oswald As Information Source

Associated Press

Contrary to sworn testimony, the CIA once considered using presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald as a source of intelligence information about the Soviet Union, according to a newly released CIA document.

In sworn testimony before the Warren Commission, former CIA Director Richard Helms said the agency never had "or even contemplated" any contacts with Oswald.

The newly released document, written by an unidentified CIA officer three days after President John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, says that "we showed intelligence interest" in Oswald and "discussed . . . the laying on of interviews."

The unidentified officer added that "I do not know what action developed thereafter."

**THE MEMO WAS AMONG** hundreds of pages of documents from the CIA's file on Lee Harvey Oswald. The material was released to The Associated Press yesterday under the Freedom of Information Act.

A second document reveals that former CIA Director Allen Dulles, while serving as a member of the Warren Commission, privately counseled CIA officials on the best way to answer questions from the commission about allegations that Oswald was a CIA agent.

Dulles "thought language which made it clear that Lee Harvey Oswald was never an employee or agent of CIA would suffice," an unidentified CIA officer wrote Helms in April 1964.

"I agree with him that a carefully phrased denial of the charges of involvement with Oswald seemed most appropriate," the unidentified officer added.

When he appeared before the commission in May 1964, Helms, then head of the agency's clandestine services, testified under oath that "there's no material in the Central Intelligence Agency, either in the records or in the mind of any of the individuals that there was any contact had or even contemplated with" Oswald.

**THE NOV. 23, 1963,** memo explains that the agency's interest in Oswald as a potential intelligence source was due to his "unusual behavior in the USSR," to which he had defected in 1959.

"We were particularly interested in the (deleted) Oswald might provide on the Minsk factory in which he had been employed, on certain sections of the city itself, and of course we thought the usual (deleted) that might help develop (deleted) personality dossiers," the memo states.

The memo indicates that Oswald was also of interest to the CIA because of concern that his Russian-

born wife, Marina, might have been part of a trend for Soviet women to marry foreigners, leave the country and settle overseas where they could serve as spies.

**THE MEMO ABOUT** the agency's interest in Oswald said the discussions about Oswald occurred "some-time in summer 1960." The author continued: "I don't recall if this was discussed while Oswald and his family were en route to our country or if it was after their arrival."

# The Ruling Class

Bernhard, big business and the CIA/By Robert Scheer

There was absolutely no publicity. The hotel was ringed by security guards, so not a single journalist got within a mile of the place. The participants were pledged not to repeat publicly what was said in the discussions. Every person present, prime ministers, foreign ministers, leaders of political parties, heads of great banks and industrial companies and representatives of such international organizations as the European Coal and Steel Community, as well as academicians, was magically stripped of his office as he entered the door. . . . —From *BERNHARD Prince of the Netherlands*, by Alden Hatch. Doubleday, 1962

Recent revelations of illicit ties between Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands and the Lockheed Corporation touch only a corner of this man's murky career—a career made possible only by the support of various American presidents, top corporate leaders and the large tax-exempt foundations. The CIA, hard evidence indicates, was the catalyst in organizing this coalition behind the prince.

The CIA connection was hinted at in one recent *New York Times* story which stated that the prince had maintained an account in a CIA-funded Dutch bank that was set up by one of his closest aides, General John von Houghton, who "reportedly had ties to the CIA." The *Times* noted that "Prince Bernhard was also a close friend of Allen W. Dulles, founder of the CIA." The *Times* also cited "one reliable source close to the government" as saying that when the Dutch prime minister confronted Bernhard about wrongdoing in connection with Lockheed, the prince denied it, but added, "If you would ask me about my relations with the CIA, that would be a different matter"—which is where the *Times* let the matter drop. So far as I can determine, no one has asked the prince or the CIA about their relationship, which revolves around the prince's leadership of the very influential Bilderberg conferences (The Ruling Class, September 17, 1976).

The Bilderberg meetings, which have occurred every year since 1954, have been the most secretive, exclusive and influential non-official gathering of the world's top American corporate and political elite—including President Ford, Vice-President Rockefeller and

Secretary of State Kissinger. Far removed from the public view, they have initiated such significant developments as the European Common Market, basic changes in trade, tariff and currency regulations and Western positions on "hot spots" such as Cuba and Vietnam. But I have come across evidence that none of this would have occurred had it not been for the timely intervention of the CIA in assisting Prince Bernhard in the formation of his Bilderberg group.

A shadowy character by the name of Joseph H. Retinger thought up Bilderberg and peddled the idea to Bernhard. Retinger, a Polish exile, was involved in numerous clandestine cold war operations and had extensive



International fixer Bernhard, right, with Lockheed sales exec Fred Meuser.

contact with virtually all Western intelligence agencies. One early Bilderberger, the late C. D. Jackson, who was vice-president of Time Inc., once described Retinger as a "sort of eminence grise of Europe, a Tallyrand without portfolio." Alden Hatch's laudatory biography of Bernhard, based on extensive taped conversations with the prince and researched with the full support of the royal household, says of Retinger, "Certainly he had almost as many adventures as Ian Fleming's famous secret service operative, James Bond. . . . Though his name is virtually unknown except to the initiator, he made

secret way than many a man who moved to the sound of trumpets and the howl of motorcycle sirens."

Both Retinger and Bernhard had influential contacts in the United States, and after agreeing on the scheme, the duo went off to America to enlist support. A portrait of Bernhard in the December 1970 issue of *Fortune* magazine described that trip:

"Retinger joined him [Bernhard] in Washington, and they proceeded, with the help of Bernhard's wartime comrade, Walter Bedell Smith, then director of the CIA, C. D. Jackson, a vice-president of Time Inc., and the late John Coleman of Burroughs, to recruit an American group."

Bernhard's connection with



C.D. Jackson of Time Inc., the CIA's head turned Bilderberg over to him.

Bedell Smith and the CIA is described in greater detail in the prince's biography, which states that the Bilderberg idea at first received a cool response from such as Averell Harriman, who thought it was too controversial. Said Harriman: "I won't touch it. It's dynamite." Bernhard, according to his biographer, "saw a number of American politicians. After several more rebuffs he went to his friend Bedell Smith, who was then head of the CIA. Smith said, 'Why the hell didn't you come to me in the first place?' General Smith then 'turned the matter over to C. D. Jackson, and things really got going.' It is interesting